

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

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DRAFTED BY EA/K:JFORBES:CHG

APPROVED BY EA/K - MR O'DONOHUE

EA/P - MR SMITH

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

CINCPAC PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, KS

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTS ON U.S. SECURITY TIES TO KOREA

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

REF: (A) SEOUL 2733; (B) SEOUL 2745 (NOTAL)

1. AS REQUESTED REF'B , FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE PREPARED
FOR USE AT APRIL 21 NOON PRESS BRIEFING. BEGIN QUOTE:

QUESTION: CAN YOU COMMENT ON JAPANESE PRESS REPORTS
ALLEGING THAT THE USG IS RE-EXAMINING ITS PACIFIC DEFENSE
POSTURE TO EXCLUDE KOREA?

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ANSWER: ANY SUCH REPORTS ARE UTTERLY FALSE. THE U.S.

STANDS BY ITS SECURITY TIES TO THE ROK. IN THIS REGARD,
I WOULD REFER YOU TO THE PRESIDENT'S APRIL 10 SPEECH
IN WHICH HE SAID QUOTE OF FUNDAMENTAL IMPORTANCE IS OUR
MUTUAL SECURITY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
WHICH I REAFFIRMED ON MY RECENT VISIT. UNQUOTE.

BACKGROUND: FALSE JAPANESE PRESS REPORTS THAT THE USG
HAS DECIDED TO EXCLUDE KOREA AND OTHERS FROM ITS "LINE
OF DEFENSE" IN ASIA HAVE BEEN GIVEN PROMINENT TREATMENT

BY THE KOREAN MEDIA. THESE REPORTS ARE ALLEGEDLY LINKED
TO UNNAMED STATE DEPARTMENT SOURCES BUT WE BELIEVE THE
REPORTS ARE COMPLETELY SPECIOUS. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NOT
YET SEEN THE TEXTS OF THESE REPORTS, IT IS IMPORTANT
THAT THE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN STRONGLY DENY THEM AT THE
EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY. END QUOTE

2. DESPITE OUR PROMPTING, KOREAN REPORTERS DID NOT
ASK QUESTION AT PRESS SESSION. HOWEVER, ORIENT
PRESS REPORTER ASKED QUESTION OF DEPT SPOKESMAN
FOLLOWING BRIEFING AND WAS GIVEN ABOVE REPLY. WE HAVE
ALSO PASSED ANSWER TO AP AND OTHER KOREAN PRESS REPRESENTATIVES
AND WILL RAISE THESE STORIES WITH THE
TOKYO SHINBUN AND SANKEI SHINBUN REPORTERS.

3. IN ANY CONVERSATIONS, EMBASSY SHOULD DRAW ON ABOVE
GUIDANCE AND STATE CATEGORICALLY THAT REPORTS ARE
COMPLETELY UNFOUNDED.

KISSINGER

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